(e) At present there is no proposal under consideration to adopt a new fertilizer policy in the current financial year.

(f) Does not arise.

Expansion by NFL

7461. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposal from the National Fertilziers Limited (NFL) to undertake low cost expansion programme of its units;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion programme; and

(c) the funds earmarked and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) have, in principle, decided to expand their Panipat fertilizer plan to produce an additional 7.26 lakh MT of urea per annum at an estimated cost of Rs. 1100 crores. The company has already made a preliminary presentation to the Government as a part of their exercise to firm up the proposals. NFl also proposes to expand their Nangal unit through debottlenecking to produce an additional 1.81 lakh MT of urea per annum. Since NFL is a MOU signing company, Government approval is not required for the Nangal expansion project estimated to cost about Rs. 40 crores.

Manufacturers of Rifa-S and Ethambutol

7462. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the major manufacturers of Rifa-S and Ethambutol in the country;

(b) the demand and production of Rifa-S and Ethambutol during 1994-95;

(c) whether Ethambutol has been kept out of the purview of price control;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ensure availability of these and other life saving drugs at affordable rates to rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In the organised sector, Rifa-S is manufactured by M/s. Lupin Chemicals and M/s. Gujarat Themis Biosyn Limited and Ethambutol by M/s. Cadila Labs, M/s. Lupin Labs, M/s. Lyka Labs and M/s. Themis Chemicals.

(b) As per avialable information, the estimated demand and production of Rifa-S and Ethambutol during 1994-95 is indicated below:

	Demand	Production
Rifa-S	312.00 MT	137.912 MT
Ethambutol	531.00 MT	685.44 MT

(c) and (d) Ethambutol is kept outside price control on the basis of market competition criteria.

(e) Keeping in view the need to make available quality products in abundant quantity and at reasonable prices to the consumers, the Government has announced "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" in September, 1994.

Proposal for the Closure of Fertilizer Units

7463. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to close down some fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, the number and the location of the fertilizer units proposed to be closed-down;

(c) the reasons for taking such decision;

(d) the number of workers likely to be affected following the closure of those fertilizer units; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) are the two fertilizer manufacturing companies in the public sector which have been declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). In the context of the preparation of revival packages for these PSUs, the Government have decided, in principle, to hive off of Haldia Fertlizer Project (West Bengal) of HFC and Gorakhpur unit (UP) of FCI from their parent companies in view of the fact that revamp of these projects was not found feasible. The proposal is to offer these two units to other entrepreneurs for opening up new plants at these locations or reviving the existing plants. As on 31.3.1995, there were about 1525 and 1650 employees or the rolls of Haldia project and Gorakhpur unit, respectively. However, any final decision on the long term future of HFC and FCI, including Haldia project and Gorakhpur unit, would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a Quasi-judicial authority.

Demand of Fertilizers in Karnataka

7464. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of fertilizers in Karnataka;

(b) the share of subsidy on fertilizers consumed in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any short supply of fertilizers in Karanataka;

(d) whether Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers have submitted a Rehabiliation Scheme to Government; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer under price, distribution and movement controls and its demand is assessed for the purposes of allocation under the Essential Commodities Act, (ECA), 1955. The demand for urea in the State of Karnataka during the current Kharif season is 4.30 lakh tonnes.

(b) The fertilizer subsidy schemes, which are applicable uniformly throughout the country, do not envisage statewise allocation.

(c) The availability of fertilizers in Karnataka, relative to the current demand, is comfortable.

(d) and (e) Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited is not an undertaking of the Government of India. The compnay is reported to be under reference to the Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). No specific assistance of this Ministry is required in the matter of finalisation of revival package for this company.

Failure to Recover Over Charged Amount

7465. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to recover the overcharged amount in respect of Revital, Tetradox, Ibuprofen, Roscillin, Pentazocaine and several other formulations where prices were overcharged;

(b) the full facts and the details of the periods when prices were overcharged;

(c) the special reasons on account of which Government has failed to work out